

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1-34 (canceled).

Claim 35 (currently amended): A method of improving or maintaining absorption of vitamin E in a ~~pet animal~~ cat that has, or is susceptible to, a vitamin E deficiency, the method comprising the step of feeding the ~~pet~~ cat an effective amount of an edible composition to improve or maintain or promote the ~~pet's~~ cat's lipid absorption capacity, the edible composition comprising a pancreatic function-promoter comprising an acidifier, a liver function-promoter ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ comprising taurine, emulsifiers, glutathione and glutathione-promoters, ranging between about 0.1% and about 1% by weight of the edible composition on a dry matter basis, and an intestinal mucosa function-promoter, ~~wherein the liver function promoter comprises between about 0.1% and about 1% by weight of the edible composition on a dry matter basis and the intestinal mucosa function promoter comprises~~ comprising fish oil ranging between about 0.1% and 20% by weight of the edible composition on a dry matter basis.

Claims 36-44 (canceled):

Claim 45 (currently amended): A method according to claim 44 35 wherein the component has a fatty acid profile selected to improve intestinal absorption.

Claims 46-47 (canceled):

Claim 48 (previously presented): A method according to claim 35 wherein the composition is administered as a nutritionally balanced, ready-to-eat meal.

Claim 49 (previously presented): A method according to claim 48 wherein the meal comprises a dried pet food kibble.

Claim 50 (previously presented): A method according to claim 35 wherein the composition is administered as a meal supplement.

Claim 51 (previously presented): A method according to claim 50 wherein the meal supplement is in the form of a treat.

Claim 52 (currently amended): A method of maintaining or improving the serum vitamin E level in a pet animal cat that has, or is susceptible to, a vitamin E deficiency, comprising the step of feeding the ~~pet animal~~ cat an effective amount of an edible composition that maintains or improves the ~~pet's~~ cat's lipid absorption capacity, the edible composition comprising a pancreatic function-promoter, a liver function-promoter ~~selected from the group consisting of comprising~~ taurine, emulsifiers, glutathione and glutathione promoters ranging between about 0.1% and about 1% by weight of the edible composition on a dry matter basis, and an intestinal mucosa function-promoter ~~comprising fish oil ranging, wherein the liver function promoter comprises between about 0.1% and about 1% by weight of the edible composition on a dry matter basis and the intestinal mucosa function promoter comprises between about 0.1% and 20% by weight of the edible composition on a dry matter basis.~~

Claims 53-56 (canceled):

Claim 57 (previously presented): A method according to claim 52 wherein the component has a fatty acid profile selected to improve intestinal absorption.

Claim 58 (previously presented): A method according to claim 52 wherein the composition is administered as a nutritionally balanced, ready-to-eat meal.

Claim 59 (previously presented): A method according to claim 58 wherein the meal comprises a dried pet food kibble.

Claim 60 (previously presented): A method according to claim 58 wherein the meal is administered daily.

Claim 61 (currently amended): A composition comprising a pancreatic function promoter comprising an acidifier, a liver function-promoter ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ comprising taurine ranging between about 0.1% and about 1% by weight of the edible composition on a dry matter basis, ~~emulsifiers, glutathione and glutathione promoters~~, and an intestinal mucosa function promoter ~~in amounts effective to promote or maintain or improve the lipid absorption capacity of a pet, wherein the liver function promoter comprises~~ comprising fish oil ranging between about 0.1% and about 1% by weight of the composition on a dry matter basis ~~and the intestinal mucosa function promoter comprises~~ between about 0.1% and 20% by weight of the composition on a dry matter basis.

Claim 62 (previously presented): The composition of claim 61 wherein the composition is a nutritionally balanced, ready-to-eat pet meal.

Claim 63 (previously presented): The composition of claim 62 wherein the meal is a wet pet food.

Claim 64 (previously presented): The composition of claim 62 wherein the meal is a dry pet food.

Claims 65-68 (canceled):